

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. In addition, Applicant would like to respond to the Examiner's comments in the Final Office Action dated November 12, 2002 and such a response will be made with reference to amended claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hudson, stating that Hudson in Fig. 2 shows a gear 68 having a tooth formed around an outer periphery, a hub, a web, radially extending rib portions 82 and blades 84 wherein the blades are located on an extension of a corresponding diametrical rib.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to first point out that Applicant's invention relates to a molded gear that is made entirely of plastic by injection molding and the blades are disposed as described with respect to the diametrical ribs. Applicant respectfully submits that by means of this construction that as described at the bottom of page 7 to line 1 of page 8, that upon making a molded gear by injection molding, flowing of the plastic molten material during the injection molding is smooth and the possibility of molding failures reduced.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Hudson and in contrast to Applicant's invention, Applicant respectfully submits that while Hudson may show a cam pulley that has fan blades 84 and fan blades may appear to look like Applicant's invention at first glance, Applicant respectfully submits that there are significant differences as follows:

1. The gear of Hudson is nylon cast around a metal hub and is not made entirely of plastic, as Applicant's invention;
2. One end of the fan blade is not an extension of the diametrical rib disposed toward the surface side of the gear in Hudson and contrary to the structure claimed by Applicant.

In particular and as is clear from Fig. 3 of Hudson, one end of the blade is positioned at the center in the direction of thickness of the diametrical rib. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that the gear of Hudson does not have the advantage of Applicant's invention.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Hudson does not show each and every element of Applicant's invention and claims 1-6 are not anticipated thereby.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP 04-102754 in view of Hudson, stating that JP '754 teaches a pair of meshing gears wherein one of the gears is formed of a fan; but does not disclose that the end of each of the blades on the surface side being located on an extension of the corresponding diametrical rib and/or the fan being molded; however, it would have been obvious to modify JP '754 in view of the teachings of Hudson.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and Hudson. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed JP '754 and respectfully submits that while JP '754 may disclose a rotating body that transfers a driving force which is integrally formed with a fan that generates an airflow, it does not disclose or suggest that the gear would be molded entirely of plastic by injection molding or that the blades would be disposed with respect to the diametrical ribs as is now claimed by Applicant's invention.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not Applicant's invention but also the combination suggested by the Examiner is not suggested by the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are not obvious over JP '754 in view of Hudson.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,  
KODA & ANDROLIA

By: 

William L. Androlia  
Reg. No. 27,177

2029 Century Park East  
Suite 1430  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
Tel: (310) 277-1391  
Fax: (310) 277-4118

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William L. Androlia  
Name

  
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